HEALTH
A21 OCT42
C.R. 28

PONTYPOOL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's
ANNUAL REPORT
for the Year 1940.

CURZON Printer Library Basement Pontypool
and 18 Swan Square Abersychan

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CURZON Printer Library Basement Pontypool
and 18 Swan Square Abersychan

Hanbury Road,

Pontypool, Mon.

July 1st, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Welsh Board of Health have requested that Medical Officers of Health confine their Annual Reports for 1940 to essential and urgent matters, and I beg to submit mine in this form.

Physical Features.

Items under this heading correspond with my report for 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The majority of workers in the district are engaged in strenuous occupations

Unemployment had decreased considerably at the end of the year, and was not responsible for any cause of sickness or invalidity.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	15,907
Population ...	...	41,450
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1940 according to Rate Books	...	10,729
Rateable Value ...	...	£158,825
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£582

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate	...	17·34 per 1,000 population
Death Rate	...	15·65 per 1,000 population
Infantile Death Rate	...	61·22 per 1,000 live births
Infectious Diseases Death Rate excluding Tuberculosis		01·01 per 1,000 population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	..	00·57 per 1,000 population
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	...	00·12 per 1,000 population

Birth Rate

The total number of births returned by the Registrar General for the calculation of Birth Rates for 1940 (known in Table II. as "B.R."), and for the calculations of Infant and Maternal Mortalities (known in Table II. as "I.M. etc."), was as follows:—

Live Births	Total ("B.R.")	Male	Female	Total ("I.M. etc.")	Male	Female
Legitimate	700	385	315	716	395	321
Illegitimate	19	14	5	19	14	5
TOTALS	719	399	320	735	409	326

Birth Rate ... 17·34 per 1,000 population
Illegitimate Birth Rate ... 26·42 per 1,000 live births

There were 35 Still Births during the year, (21 males and 14 females), giving a Still Birth Rate of 46·41 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, and of 0·84 per 1,000 population.

All the Still Births were legitimate.

The number of women dying in consequence of childbirth :—

From puerperal sepsis (No. 29) ... 0
Giving a death rate of 00·00 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

From other maternal causes (No. 30) ... 2
Giving a death rate of 2 59 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Total deaths under headings Nos. 29 and 30 2
Total death rate :—2·59 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 61·22

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 50·00

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ... 00·00

Death Rate (all ages)

The total number of deaths belonging to the district after corrections for inward and outward transfers was 590 (313 males and 277 females), giving a death rate, adjusted by a comparability factor of 1·10, of 15 65 per 1,000 population, comparable with a death rate for the County of 13·4, and for England and Wales of 14·3 per 1,000 population.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from measles (all ages) ...	0	0	0
" whooping cough (all ages)	1	0	1
" cancer "	51	29	22
" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6	3	3

AGES AT DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Under 1 week	...	17
1—2 weeks	...	3
2—3 "	...	3
3—4 "	...	2
Total under one month	...	25
1—3 months	...	7
3—6 "	...	7
6—9 "	...	6
9—12 "	...	0
Total under one year	...	45

INFANTILE DEATH RATES (1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) COMPARED

Year	England & Wales	Monmouthshire	Pontypool
1940	55	67·7	61·22

S.D 55.

TABLE I.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1940.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County	Pontypool Urban District (compared)
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Live Births ...	14·6	16·0	15·7	13.7	17·34
Still Births ...	0·55	0·64	0·55	0·44	0·84
DEATHS;					
All Causes ...	14·3	15·8	12·8	17 8	15·65
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0·00	0 00	0·00	0 00	0·00
Scarlet Fever ...	0 00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ...	0 02	0 02	0 02	0·00	0·02
Diphtheria ..	0 06	0·07	0·05	0 01	0·12
Influenza ...	0·32	0 29	0·30	0·18	0·24
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0·02	0 02	0.02	0·01	0·00
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	55	61	54	50	61·22
Death from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	4·6	5·9	4·4	5·8	8·16
	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS.					
Enteric ...	0 07	0 06	0·10	0·06	0·09
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	0·32	0·33	0·29	0 28	0 94
Scarlet Fever ...	1·63	1·53	1·57	0·82	1·68
Whooping Cough ...	1·34	1 29	1 35	0 22	1 64
Diphtheria ...	1·16	1·29	1 21	0·61	1·61
Erysipelas ..	0·33	0.36	0·30	0·35	0·12
Small Pox ..	0 00	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	10 24	9 23	9 99	1·78	9 04
Pneumonia ..	1·20	1·37	1·00	0·87	0·62
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No 147)	0·52	Not Available			0·00
Others	1·64				2·59
Total	2·16				2·59
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11·96	13·90	9·37	3·34 13·30 including Puerpural Fever	0·00 2·59

Table II.—Causes of Death in Pontypool Urban District, 1940

	CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
	All Causes ...	313	277
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2	Cerebro spinal fever	5	3
3	Scarlet fever	—	—
4	Whooping cough	—	1
5	Diphtheria	2	3
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	11	13
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ...	2	3
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	1	—
9	Influenza	6	4
10	Measles	—	—
11	Ac. polio-myel and polio-enceph. ...	—	—
12	Ac. inf. enceph. ...	—	1
13	Cancer of B; cav: and oesoph: (m) uterus (f)	3	3
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	6	5
15	Cancer of breast	—	3
16	Cancer of all other sites	20	11
17	Diabetes	4	2
18	Intra-cran: vasc; lesions	22	34
19	Heart disease	76	64
20	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	5	2
21	Bronchitis	32	23
22	Pneumonia	12	13
23	Other respiratory diseases ...	12	7
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	3	2
25	Diarrhœa, (under 2 years) ...	3	3
26	Appendicitis	3	—
27	Other digestive diseases	8	6
28	Nephritis	8	7
29	Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis ...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	—	2
31	Premature birth	5	8
32	Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	4	7
33	Suicide	1	1
34	Road traffic accidents	3	2
35	Other violent causes	23	8
36	All other causes	33	36

		M	F	M	F
		For I.M. etc.		For BR	
Live Births	Total	409	326	399	320
	Legitimate	395	321	385	315
	Illegitimate	14	5	14	5
Stillbirths	Total			21	14
	Legitimate			21	14
	Illegitimate			—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total			24	21
	Legitimate ...			24	21
	Illegitimate ...			—	—

Population ... (a) (b) 41,450

Comparability Factor 1·10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority

These were similar to my report for 1938, with one exception—Dr. A. Carveth Johnson, a Tuberculosis Physician from the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association, visits the Park Buildings, Pontypool on Tuesday only of each week.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

As stated in my Annual Report for 1938, several items under this heading will be found in the Sanitary Inspectors Reports, at the end of this Report.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

This is reported on by the Sanitary Inspectors in their Reports.

HOUSING

This is also reported on by the Sanitary Inspectors in their Reports.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Items under this heading are as reported in my Annual Report for 1938.

The Sanitary Inspectors have reported on the work carried out during the year in their Reports.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

No alarming disclosures under any of the headings set out in my Annual Report for 1938, and no alteration from the information stated therein.

Prevention of Blindness

No action was taken by the Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TABLE III.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, ARRANGED IN AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	Cases removed to Hospital
Diphtheria	1	2	1	5	1	31	16	5	2	1	2	...	67	12
Malaria and Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...		0	...
Erysipelas	...	..	...	...	...		...	...	1	...	4	...	5	...
Scarlet Fever	.	2	1	4	9	30	14	5	4	1	...	...	70	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	6	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	2	1	5	2	8	3	5	9	1	2	...	39	29
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	0	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Small Pox ...	..	..	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
Pneumonia	...	1		2	1	2		2	5	4	7	2	26	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	...
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...		...	...		...	...	...	...	0	...
Measles	19	39	34	45	60	147	19	11	1	...	...	...	375	...
Whooping Cough ...	12	7	10	14	10	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	68	...
TOTALS ..	39	53	47	75	83	232	53	29	24	7	15	2	659	42

TABLE IV.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS, IN AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Malaria and Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	1		2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	7	4	25
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	...	...	...		...	...	..	1	1	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTALS ...	9	4	1	2	1	7	0	1	4	1	8	4	42

Tuberculosis.

Thirty-four (20 males and 14 females) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 21 (10 males and 11 females) of the other forms of the disease were notified during the year

There were 24 (11 males and 13 females) deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease, and 5 (2 males and 3 females) of the non-pulmonary form.

The King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association have an Institute at the Park Buildings, Pontypool, where Dr. A. Carveth Johnson attended on Tuesday of each week, to see new cases referred by the Medical Practitioners for examination, and old cases still requiring supervision or treatment. Visits were also made by Dr. Johnson to the homes of people too ill to attend the Institute.

No action for the compulsory removal of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, became necessary.

No cases of tuberculosis among employees engaged in the milk trade came under my observation, therefore no action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, became necessary.

All deaths from Tuberculosis during the year had been previously notified in the district, with the exception of one who died at a Mental Hospital outside the district

TABLE V.

Particulars of New Cases of Tuberculosis and Deaths from the Disease during 1940

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	2
5—15	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0
15—25	3	4	4	5	3	4	0	0
25—35	6	5	0	1	4	4	0	1
35—45	7	3	0	0	3	2	1	0
45—55	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0
55—65	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	20	14	10	11	11	13	2	3

Recommendations.

As stated in my Annual Report for 1938.

The Sanitary Inspector for the Panteg Parish terminated his employment with the Council shortly before the end of 1940 and consequently no Report for that area is available. A new Sanitary Inspector has now been appointed.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOMAS McALLEN

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR PONTYPOOL AND PART OF ABERSYCHAN PARISHES, 1940

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Pontymoile.

To Dr McALLEN, M.B., B.Ch.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Hanbury Road, Pontypool.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Pontypool and Wainfelin Districts of the Pontypool Urban Area in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers' Regulations for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

NUISANCES AND HOUSING

NOTICES SERVED

Informal	...	87
Statutory	...	54
Complaints	...	116
Nuisances abated	...	156

HOUSING

Houses inspected	...	342
Repair notices, informal	...	49
Repairs, formal	...	35

DRAINS

New Drains	...	21
Unstopped	...	51
Repaired	...	62

WATER CLOSETS

New Closets	...	11
Aboilshed		6
Repaired	...	10
New Flushing	...	48

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, BAKEHOUSES

Nuisances abated	..	18

SANITARY ACCOMODATION

Insufficient		5
Unsuitable and Defective	...	13

BAKEHOUSES

Inspections	...	78
Informal Notices	...	8
Limewashing	...	3
Closet Accommodation	...	5
Cleansing of Floors	...	4

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

Inspections	...	39
Nuisances abated	...	7
W.C. Defects	...	2
Cleansing	...	5

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Regular inspection of shops and offices has been carried out.

Washing facilities provided	...	5
Want of Cleanliness	...	8
Defective Closet accommodation		17
Covered Bins provided	...	3

LICENSED PREMISES

Inspections	...	106
Nuisances	...	37
New Closet provided	...	9
General Repairs	...	17
Sanitation	...	
Hot Water installed for washing utensils	...	3
New Drainage	...	2
Washing facilities	...	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

(MILK. Special Designation Order, 1936)

Pasteurised Milk Depots	...	2
Samples taken	...	26
Samples reported satisfactory	...	22

FARMS. Cowsheds and Dairies

Improved Lighting	...	2
Limewashing and Cleansing	...	19
Manure Nuisances	...	3
Repairs—Roofs and Floors	...	4

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS DESTROYED

Fish	...	200 lbs.
Salmon	...	26 lbs.
Salmon	...	104 tins
Sardines	...	49 tins
Lobsters	...	4 tins
Tinned Fruit	...	310 tins
Vegetables	..	103 tins
Bottled Fruits	...	108 bots.
Eggs	...	4 doz.
Jam	...	18 jars

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

All the schools have been inspected

No complaints of nuisances have been received.

The attention of the Education Authority has been drawn to the lack of closet accommodation for the male employees at the Girls' County Secondary School.

RAT DESTRUCTION

Notices served on occupiers for abatement	...	27
Complied with	..	20

ERADICATION OF BED BUG

Number of houses disinfestated	39

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

O. J. R, PRUDEN
(A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Pontypool Urban District Council.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR NORTH DISTRICT, 1940.

Public Health Department,
Co-operative Buildings,
High Street, Abersychan.

June 21st, 1941

Below is my report of work carried out in the North District for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1940.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices	... 95
Statutory Notices	... 47
Inspections made	... 332

DEFECTS IN DWELLINGS.

Houses repaired externally	... 275
Houses repaired internally	... 154

DRAINAGE.

Drains tested and examined	... 12
Drains opened and cleansed	... 9
Drains connected to sewer	... 6
New drains provided	... 8
Defective drains repaired	... 35
Defective W.Cs. put in order	... 17
Defective flushing tanks repaired or renewed	46
New tanks supplied to W.Cs.	... 22
New pans supplied for W Cs.	... 21
Dilapidated W.Cs. repaired	... 12

OTHER NUISANCES.

Accumulations of refuse and manure removed	6

TENTS, SHEDS AND VANS.

Several sheds and vans used as dwellings have been inspected, and some found to be overcrowded and otherwise unfit for occupation, but owing to the shortage of houses consequent upon the cessation of building operations due to the war, action has been held over until the house shortage is less acute.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	16	2	—
Workshops ...	20	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...	10	2	—
Total ...	46	4	—

CINEMAS

Number of Cinemas in District	...	2
Inspections made	...	6
Notices served	...	1
Notices complied with	..	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified in the district (including Tuberculosis, Measles and Whooping Cough) .	368
Number of houses in which Infectious Disease occurred ...	327
Number of patients (including Tuberculosis) removed to Isolation Hospitals ...	29
Number of houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	327

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS

On January 15th, 1940, Government control of Meat Supplies came into force. The Co-operative Slaughter House at Abersychan became the Centre for Slaughter of the Meat Supply for Pontypool Urban and Rural, and Usk Urban Areas.

This necessitated a constant attendance at the Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection, and I give below a summary of the number of Cattle Slaughtered and Meat Condemned for that period.

MEAT CONDEMNED

Beef	...	7107	lbs.
Mutton	...	955	„
Lamb	...	139	„
Pork	...	47	„
Veal	...	6	„
Total	...	8254	lbs.

OFFAL CONDEMNED

	Livers	Lungs	Other Organs
Beasts	2664 lbs.	800 lbs.	All Animals 232 lbs.
Sheep	9898 „	8392 „	
Pigs	196 „	140 „	
Calves	8 „	6 „	
Totals	12766 lbs.	9338 lbs.	232 lbs.

In addition to the above, seven complete ox-offals were condemned

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED

Cattle	...	1876
Sheep	...	18107
Pigs	...	1728
Calves	...	1027
Total	...	22738

Fifteen carcases and two fores were condemned on account of Tuberculosis, giving a percentage of ·82 of cattle killed.

The inspection of foods in shops was regularly carried out, and the following food stuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

Fish	...	18	lbs.
Bottled and tinned goods	...	180	„
Bacon	...	842	„
Cooked meats	...	119	„
Fruit	...	12	„
Miscellaneous	...	175	„

MILK SUPPLY.

Owing to pressure of work occasioned by the war, only two samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination.

These were from schools, and proved satisfactory

Farms, dairies and cowsheds were regularly visited, and were satisfactory from a cleanliness standpoint.

Number of farms in district	...	14
Number of inspections	...	28

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district from the Company mains of the Pontypool Gas and Water Company. Samples are regularly taken by the Company for analysis. No samples were submitted by the Department.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

In three instances this pest has been destroyed by the use of Cymex Gas. Two houses have been sprayed with insecticides. Ants and Black-beetles have been destroyed by Cymex Power.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Rat baits were laid at various ash dumps and depots belonging to the Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1934.

The following samples were taken under the above Act, and submitted to the analyst for examination.

Sample		No. taken	Result of Analysis	
Chicken & Ham Paste		2	Genuine	Sample
Cocoa	...	1	"	"
Syrup of Figs	...	1	"	"
Peas (Box)	...	1	"	"
Custard Powder	...	2	"	"
Caster Oil	...	1	"	"
Table Jelly	...	1	"	"
Coffee	...	1	"	"
Camphorated Oil	...	1	"	"
Sardines	...	1	"	"
Lemon Barley Crystals		1	"	"
Sago	...	1	"	"
Beechams Powders	...	1	"	"
Carters Castorets	...	1	"	"
Juniper Pills	...	1	"	"
Friars Balsam	...	1	"	"
Mustard	...	1	"	"
Beer	...	1	"	"
Vinegar	...	1	"	"
Pilchards	..	1	"	"
Dessicated Cokernut	...	1	"	"
Rice	...	1	"	"
Sacharine Tablets	...	1	"	"
Milk	...	6	"	"

The twenty-four samples of food were found to be free from adulteration, genuine articles, and in compliance with the required standard.

The six samples of milk submitted were of good quality, the average composition being—

Fat	Solids not fats	Total solids
3·5%	8·93%	12·43%

No Police Court proceedings were taken in any instance.

SCHOOLS.

Inspections of Schools situated in my area were carried out during the year. No complaints were received.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. MEEK.